



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/532,786	03/22/2000	Nobuhiko Hayashi	000351	8588
23850	7590	09/02/2004	EXAMINER	
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP 1725 K STREET, NW SUITE 1000 WASHINGTON, DC 20006			RODRIGUEZ, ARMANDO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2828	

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/532,786

Applicant(s)

HAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-13 and 15-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-13 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Claims 1-4,6-13,15-18 are pending.

Claims 15 and 14 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been considered a product-by-process claim based on applicant's amendment of "a transverse growth technique". Applicant is reminded determination of patentability is based on the product itself and does not depend on its method of production, See MPEP 2113.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4,6-13 and 15-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the ridge portion comprising a second p-type cladding layer of claim 3 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the current blocking layer having a multi-layer structure of claim 10 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

Art Unit: 2828

replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities: as understood by the examiner the claim reads and implies a particular type of electrode as n-type or p-type, however applicant has not recited the intended limitation. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

Art Unit: 2828

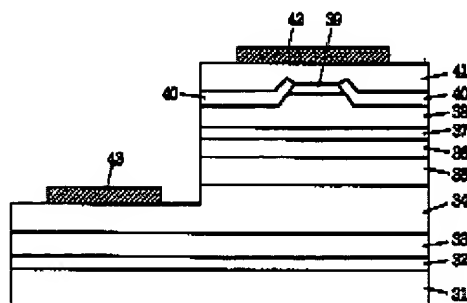
applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4,9,11,13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kunisato et al (PN 6,162,656).

Regarding claims 1, and 11,

Figure 4 illustrates a nitride semiconductor laser having a nitride based semiconductor layer (32) with the composition of AlGaN, a nitride semiconductor layer (38) with the composition of AlGaN and formed into a ridge and the ridge having a width, a current blocking layer (40) formed on the side of the ridge to the top surface of the ridge, where the current blocking layers form a space on the top surface of the ridge, which has a width smaller than the width of the top surface of the ridge and a nitride semiconductor layer (39) with the composition of GaN is disposed in the space formed by the current blocking layers. See column 10 lines 15-37. Column 10 lines 42-44, discloses manufacturing the semiconductor laser by chemical vapor deposition such as (MOCVD), which is considered a transverse growth technique or process.

FIG. 4



Regarding claim 2,

The current blocking layer of Kunisato et al illustrated in figure 4 has the composition of GaN or AlGa_N, as described in column 10 lines 30-31.

Regarding claims 3 and 13,

Figure 4 illustrates an n-type cladding layer (35), an active layer (36) and a p-type cladding layer (38) having a ridge. See column 10 lines 15-30 and lines 42-53.

Regarding claim 4,

The current blocking layer of Kunisato et al illustrated in figure 4 has the composition of GaN or AlGa_N, as described in column 10 lines 30-31.

Regarding claims 9 and 17,

Figure 4 illustrates the current blocking layer (40) having a single-layer structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunisato et al (PN 6,162,656) as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Sugiura et al (PN 5,932,896).

Regarding claim 6,

The current blocking layer of Kunisato et al illustrated in figure 4 has the composition of GaN or AlGa_N, as described in column 10 lines 30-31.

Kunisato et al is silent as to the current blocking layer containing the composition of indium and gallium.

However, the use of current blocking layers having the composition of indium and gallium is well known in the art and is described by Sugiura et al in column 24 lines 7-9, as a desired composition, which implies a design preference.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the nitride semiconductor laser of Kunisato et al with the current blocking layer of Sugiura et al because it would provide current blocking.

Regarding claim 12,

Kunisato et al discloses forming the current blocking layers (40) on the side of the ridge (38).

Kunisato et al is silent as to disposing an insulating film on the upper surface of the ridge for obtaining an opening.

Sugiura et al illustrates in figure 34C an insulating film (99) disposed on the upper surface of the ridge (85) to obtain an opening between layers (98), as described in column 26 lines 7-19.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the nitride semiconductor laser of Kunisato et al with the insulating film of Sugiura et al because it would prevent the growth of the current blocking layers on the top surface of the ridge.

Claims 7,8,15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunisato et al (PN 6,162,656) as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Hatakoshi et al (PN 6,031,858).

Regarding claims 7 and 15,

Kunisato et al discloses a nitride semiconductor cap layer (39), where the cap layer is inside the opening formed on the top surface of the ridge and a nitride semiconductor contact layer (41), which is in contact with the cap layer, and where both layers have the composition of p-type GaN and provide an electrical contact between the electrode (42) and the ridge.

Kunisato et al does not describe a single layer, which is inside the opening and covers the region above the opening and a region on the current blocking layer.

Hatakoshi et al illustrates in figure 1 a nitride based semiconductor laser having a ridge (19), a current blocking layer (20) and a contact layer (21) with the composition of a p-type GaN, where the contact layer is a single layer formed within the region of an opening and on a region of the current blocking layer, as described in column 11 lines 15-33.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Kunisato et al nitride based semiconductor laser with the contact layer of Hatakoshi et al because it would provide an electrical contact between the electrode and the ridge for current injection.

Regarding claims 8 and 16,

Kunisato et al does illustrate in figure 4 an electrode (42), as described in column 10 lines 38-40.

Claims 10 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunisato et al (PN 6,162,656).

Regarding claims 10 and 18,

Figure 4 Kunisato et al illustrates the current blocking layer (40) having a single-layer structure with the composition of GaN or AlGaN, as described in column 10 lines 30-31.

Kunisato et al is silent as to current blocking having multiple layers.

However, in accordance with *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960), the court has held that mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced. See MPEP 2144.04 VI.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ whose telephone number is 571-272-1952. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MINSUN HARVEY can be reached on 571-272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2828

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ
Examiner
Art Unit 2828



MINSUN HARVEY
Supervisor
Art Unit 2828

AR/MH